

August 16, 1995

Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold,

I have tried to write this earlier but it seems like time slips away too fast. The wife and I enjoyed meeting you and your wife last June. I appreciate your time and I wish I had more time to talk to you and to look at your files in your basement.

My wife, Gerri, did manage to find your book in the large shopping center in Virginia, and I enjoyed reading same. The regular print sure makes it easier to read. Like all of the books I read, I make extensive use of a highlighter and a red pen, so I can go back and pick out what I considered important.

While looking for some material, I finally located the notes I took when Jim Hosty spoke to our office on 11/12/92. I typed them (as best I could read my handwriting) and am enclosing them for whatever interest there may be.

I was also wondering about the 15 FBI documents that are still being withheld. Do you have any idea what they are about and of what value they might be?

That's about it for now. Hope to talk (write) to you later. Regards to your wife.

Sincerely,

Bob Bates

Notes from talk by JAMES HOSTY to FBI Office, Kansas City, MO 11/12/92

The USMC classified Lee Harvey Oswald (LHO) as a Sharpshooter.

LHO had a high IQ- was a radar operator at Atsugi, Japan. LHO started learning Russian while in Japan; applied for language school - failed test.

LHO re-entry to the US was held up for a year. State Department overruled INS's objections.

In Dallas, SA John Fain conducted the first LHO interview.

A Bureau investigative program, SOBIR, was opened re Marina Oswald- this was a screening process.

SA Fain re-interviewed LHO later w/another SA (ready to retire) and closed the case. LHO was going to be a good boy, etc.,.,.,.

The case on Marina was reopened in 2 or 3/63 and was assigned to me (Hosty). This was not a priority case - marital discord was determined - waited for 45 days to interview. LHO moved to New Orleans, and the case was transferred there.

LHO's connection with David Ferrie? - at age 15, in the CAP
" " " Guy Bannister? - not proven or known (contrary to the JFK movie)

Bay of Pigs

In 6/63, JFK issued order to CIA for Castro's overthrow.

LHO in Mexico City - good intelligence?

back to SOBIR, to 11-1-63, interview of Marina O , on a Friday, found out the LHO was not there - in N O .

Monday, Ruth Payne, didn't know where LHO was. During that week, LHO came by and left a note of protest - re interview of wife (he did protest to the Russian embassy) The note was unsigned, he threw it in his workbox - didn't think much about it.

The Dallas newspapers indicated JFK was coming to town. - no special knowledge.

On 11/22/63, he watched the motorcade go by, the car was completely unprotected by JFK's requestd. Later he heard the news re the shooting, got in his car and stood by; cars were sent to Parkland Hospital, and then ordered back to the office. Purpose was to interview "right-wingers" that he knew and to send out a teletype.

No police suspects or pick ups; Later heard a Police Officer was shot in a quiet neighborhood. Three SA's were in the theater where LHO was arrested.

Later info said the shots came from the TSBD - knew LHO worked there - knew in my mind that it was him.

We went to PD - Lt. Nevell told me they had a hot lead - guy named LHO - only one missing from TSBD.

At PD, I interviewed LHO for an hour - admitted the pistol that shot Tippet was his. He said he was in the lunchroom at the time JFK was shot.

Two witnesses - line up- positively identified LHO re the Tippet case.

ADIC Sullivan countermanded ADIC Belmont's order not to talk to the PD - re security matters.

Bureau re-enacted DSBD - scene - said LHO could have easily done it.

I (Hosty) was not involved in the crime scene or the murder investigation.

PD sent over a list of questions (16); I was involved in 8 of them. I gave answers. The manual was followed - turned out it was wrong and my answers were wrong. The Bueau substituted my answers that I gave.

The Warren Commission issued a 7 part holding; on 4 of the parts they fudged, and on 3 I agreed. He said there was a partial cover-up.

LBJ was worried about WWII and it was government philosphy to lie if it will prevent an atomic WWII.

After LHO was killed, SAC Shanklin called me in and told me to get rid of the note. He said, "I don't ever want to see this again." I didn't tell the WC.

In 1975, while at a party, talking about the re-pening of the case - newspaper people present - "I wonder what will happen if that business about the note comes out?"

SAC Shanklin retired quickly. Clarence Kelley agreed. His wife was dying of cancer. The FBI secretary gave a different version of the note.

I (testified) before the Senate Intellignce Committee- 4 days -

*Waited
for*

Re HSCA, I was pre-interviewed- blew their mind re FBI connections. They thought the Mafia was involved.

FBI had a wire tap on Marina O after the assassination. Earl Warren ordered it. I was told to go home and they would get back with me. I finally gave a deposition --I never testified.

Re the 3 shots - 6 seconds: The first shot missed; the 2nd and 3rd fired.

JFK was sitting 6" higher and 3 or 4 " to the left (to allow for the magic bullet path)

The pristine bullet; (explanation) John Connally was hit by the butt end of the bullet (it had turned around after passing through JFK). This bullet was later found on a stretcher and it must have dropped out of the body. 95% certainty.

Two fragments were found on the front seat (floor) of the limo; they were linked to LHO's gun.

Re Tippet: 2 witnesses, positive ID re LHO

Thread on shirt - not shirt he was wearing.

Re puffs of smoke seen on the grassy knoll: first shot missed, ricochet - hitting the knoll, and causing dirt to puff up (smoke)

Bob Bates
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8/19/95

Dear Bob,

We enjoyed your visit, too.

I'm glad you enclose that clipping. The Wash. Post did not carry that story and the ARMB omitted that release from those it sent me. I do think that those ARMB board members are subject-matter ignoramuses and may well seek disclosure of what has no real connection with the assassination and might do a little harm. There are some sources, as you I am sure know, who should not be disclosed. The board has ordered the FBI to disclose its San Giancana records beginning in 1960 and that may lead to the identification of informants. It did disclose ^{of them} one ^{to me} 25 years ago. It did not respond when I wrote and told it. Besides, ^{that} the crazy CIA adventure had nothing to do with the assassination. This is true of all they've ordered disclose ^d that I know of but Oswald and "uby records should all be disclosed anyway. But to answer your question I do not know more about what those records are and I doubt they have any assassination relevance.

I'm glad to have those Hosty notes and I'll comment on some. I do realize that in making notes some can be omitted and that can lead to unfair comments but I do not believe there will be much of this if ^{on models} any at all.

Oswald did make the second ^{grade} in shooting in basic training. He was a lousy shot before discharge and barely met the minimum ^{my} requirement with help from his pals.

He is ^wrong on the delay in Oswald's return. State wanted him back fast as it did all who defected or seemed to. He caused the delay. He insisted that no charges be placed against him and that his wife be admitted. She'd belong to a Comunist youth group and the INS did not want to admit her, for that reason, even though she was expelled from it for nonpayment of dues.

The FBI did, and not without reason, want to be sure neither ^{or} Oswald was working for the Soviets or was to be an agent in place. That is the given reason for interest in them and I believe it. That the FBI believed it would be unlikely is also reasonable and that is why they did not push any part of it. That was the reason for those Fain interviews, he testified, and I believe him. I do not recall any renewed interest in Marina and the case was in NO. Hosty testified that it was returned to him the morning of the assassination. That followed ^w Oswald's ^{strange} doings in N.O. and the attention some of them got.

Oswald was in the CAP briefly and briefly ~~Ferrie~~ was inactive in it. But I have always believed that the reason Ferrie fled N.O. the day of the assassination was that he had known Oswald and had made the dangerous comments you saw in my books about Kennedy should be killed.

would have countermanded his superior's order and I've seen no record reflecting any of that. I did read those Dallas records with care, too.

The FBI did not reenact the crime. Shaneyfelt did the photographic part of the Commission's reenactment. There was an earlier one by the Secret Service. No reenactment could have concluded that it "could easily have been done." In fact, the FBI and SS never did agree with the Commission's conclusions.

Whether or not LBJ was really worried about WW III that is the con he used to get Warren to agree to be chairman.

I do not know about any mention of that note at any party but the IG's records do make it fairly clear that it was leaked from inside that office after Shanklin's retirement was secure. Nobody else could have leaked it. And the receptionist, not the secretary, was the one who said most about the note. Oswald gave it to her, unsealed. She showed it to others.

HSCA was hung up on the mafia but I doubt that Hosty "blew their minds re FBI connection," with what not indicated. I did get reports that Hosty was [^]trying to hook Oswald to be an informer but no confirmation of that.

The FBI did tap Marina but that was quite some time later. Hoover, who hated Warren, lunched with him and twisted Warren's arm so Warren would request the tap. Hoover made him believe that Marina might flee, the last thing in her mind. They also bugged her house before she moved in! With a nearby van. They offered me the tapes but because I knew there was much personal in them I declined so they'd not have me for an excuse for what could embarrass her more. The FBI did really lean on her to get her to change what she'd told the SS. I have a full record on that. They threatened to have her deported, using an INS man brought down from New York for that.

That is fiction about the puff of smoke, as Hosty said, and it was impossible from the official accounts of the shooting. I've often wondered why Hosty, with all that

experience as an SA, made so much up. Over the years he made up much from clippings I was sent. Even the Wall Street Journal welcomed him and what he wrote so much of which was not so. He may have done some to get even but that does not explain all of it. And

he did have reason to want to get even. Before the Bureau disciplined him and others,

I think all unfairly, it praised him for his unquestionable perjury before the Commission, for all of that testimony.

I hope this makes sense. I've rushed it to take a nap. I'm a bit tired.

Best to you both,

Harold

I doubt that Banister and Oswald had anything to do with each other. That seems to have been made up by Shaw's lawyers to answer what those Clinton witnesses said. They argued the man thought to have been Shaw was Banister. The rest seems to be the fabrication of Delphone Roberts. What I say on this Garrison told me but to a degree at least it can make sense. Roberts was Banister's mistress as well as secretary. There came a time when she and the widow were fighting for Banister's records. Roberts made that stuff up after refusing to talk to Garrison, that stuff about their alleged connection. It was to ~~be~~ embarrass ~~and~~ maybe it did. It also launched a new mythology. Politically Banister and Oswald could not have been farthur apart.

Kennedy did not order the Castro overthrow in 6/63. His solution to the Cuba missile crisis of 10/62 was that we would protect Castro against any invasion and beginning about then in 1963 he was having the customs and others clamp down on the soldier of fortune types *who planned invasions, etc.*

Whatever "LHO in Mexico City - good intelligence?" means there was no common sense intelligence or any other kind, including on reporting, other than by the Legat over the CIA station's ~~earl~~ craziness that could have started World War III. The Legat's common sense led to the exposure of planted bum steers that were obviously bad.

Hosty is not truthful about that note that Oswald left for him. The FBI let him get away with murder with regard to that because of what he could have said that it did not want said. If you know anyone who is interested in that I made a special file of duplicates of the IC's report. There were those who saw that note who testified that it was a threat. There was disagreement about what the threat was. Elsewhere Hosty said it was to sue him! It seems to have been to bomb but that is not certain. HQ did know about that note and it "handled" that as soon as Oswald was dead from another record I have. It told Shanklin to destroy it and he gave Hosty that order. I think Shanklin then had that note, too.

There were several others who were arrested but they were all let go. That so many SAs and police were at that theater so fast seems strange.

Oswald was not the only one missing from the TSBD and Hosty did say more than he realized to Jack Revill, not Nevell. Hoover went ape over that. More when we talk if that interests you.

My recollection now is not certain but I believe that as soon as Oswald heard Hosty's name he went supersonic. He refused to talk until Hosty left and Hosty not only never returned, the case was taken from him that very day over that. And over that *my* could have been, regardless of what Hosty says about it.

There was never any positive and plausible ID of Oswald at any of the lineups although the police rigged them to *make* identification almost automatic.

Belmont ~~on~~ was the superior of William C. Sullivan who headed Domestic Intel. There was another Assistant Director name William Sullivan then. I doubt he could or